



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

The Honorable Jay Nixon
Governor of Missouri
Office of the Governor
Jefferson City, MO 65101

April 22, 2011

Dear Governor Nixon:

Iowa has a fundamental obligation to ensure a balanced approach is taken by the United States' Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) management of the Missouri river in order to effectively accommodate the Missouri River's eight authorized purposes.

Iowa has been a member of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MORAST) since it was established in 2006 to promote regional interstate cooperation. MORAST was to provide a forum to facilitate informed management of the natural resources of the Missouri River Basin, including water resources, fish and wildlife, and its economic, historical, cultural, and social resources among the basin states, tribes, and the federal government.

MORAST, however, has not represented or balanced the interest of its members, in particular the downstream states as it persists in taking a narrow focus on upstream recreational interests and support for the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS).

Despite Iowa's clear opposition to MRAPS and specific requests that Iowa's minority position be expressed in MORAST correspondence with federal policy makers, MORAST has consistently failed to include Iowa's position. The MORAST by-laws are also problematic as they prescribe to a governor who he or she must appoint to MORAST to represent their state.

As Governor of Iowa, my duty is to constantly pursue opportunities in the best interest of this state, as such Iowa is currently evaluating whether to maintain its membership in MORAST and is looking at other possible options to represent Iowa's integral interest in the management of the Missouri River.

I am writing to you today to determine Missouri's potential interest in establishing a Missouri River Coalition of Downstream States with Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. The coalition would be organized to provide a cooperative forum supporting a balanced approach to the Missouri River's authorized purposes, and facilitating communication and fair representation of the downstream states' interests.

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss this option further. I can be reached at (515) 725-3509.

Sincerely,

Governor Terry E. Branstad

cc Governor Dave Heineman, Nebraska

Governor Jay Nixon, Missouri



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GOVERNOR

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KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

The Honorable Dave Heineman
Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848

April 22, 2011

Dear Governor Heineman:

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cc Governor Dave Heineman, Nebraska

Governor Jay Nixon, Missouri



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KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas
300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 2415
Topeka, KS 66612

April 22, 2011

Dear Governor Brownback:

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Governor Jay Nixon, Missouri